

03560.003343



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Ryo KURODA et al.) : Examiner: J. S. Ruggles
Application No.: 10/648,317) : Group Art Unit: 1756
Filed: August 27, 2003) : Confirmation No.: 3665
For: NEAR-FIELD PHOTOMASK AND NEAR-FIELD) : Allowed: January 12, 2006
EXPOSURE APPARATUS INCLUDING THE) : January 27, 2006
PHOTOMASK (As Amended))

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**LETTER REQUESTING CONSIDERATION
OF PAPERS TIMELY FILED**

Sir:

Applicants received a Notice of Allowance and a Notice of Allowability dated January 12, 2006, in the above-identified application. Applicants, however, filed an Information Disclosure Statement on December 3, 2003, prior to issuance of the Notice of Allowance on January 12, 2006. To date, the Examiner has not yet indicated his consideration of those papers. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner indicate consideration of the material submitted in that Information Disclosure Statement by initialing and returning a copy of the PTO-1449 form attached to that paper. Attached, for the Examiner's convenience, are copies of the Information Disclosure Statement, the PTO-

1449 form, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office date-stamped postcard receipt indicating the filing of those papers on that date.

Applicants believe that no fees should be incurred in connection with filing this paper. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fees be associated herewith.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

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SEW/eab

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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Ryo KURODA et al.) : Examiner: Unassigned
Application No.: 10/648,317) : Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Filed: August 27, 2003)
For: NEAR-FIELD PHOTOMASK, NEAR-FIELD) December 3, 2003
EXPOSURE APPARATUS USING THE)
PHOTOMASK, DOT PATTERN FORMING)
METHOD USING THE EXPOSURE APPARATUS,)
AND DEVICE MANUFACTURED USING THE)
METHOD)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form.

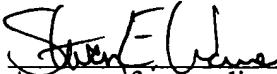
U.S. Patent No. 6,171,730 is discussed on page 3 of the subject specification.

Applicants request that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

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New York, New York 10112-3801
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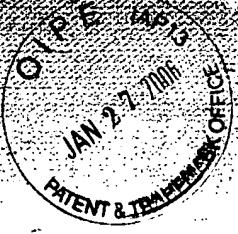
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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & TRADEMARK OFFICE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)			ATTY DOCKET NO. 03560.003343	APPLICATION NO. 10/648,317			
December 3, 2003			APPLICANT Ryo KURODA et al.				
			FILING DATE August 27, 2003	GROUP Unassigned			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		US-6,171,703 B1	01/09/2001	Kuroda et al.	430	5	
		US-6,187,482 B1	02/13/2001	Kuroda et al.	430	5	
		2001/0046719 A1	11/29/2001	Yamaguchi et al.	438	11	
		2002/0071106 A1	06/13/2002	Yano et al.	355	53	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1



Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date 12/03/2003
Mo. Day Yr.
Atty. Docket # 03560-003343
Application No. 10/1648,317

Sir:

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the accompanying:

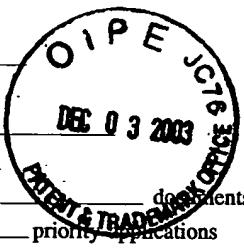
- Response to Official Action. _____
- Check for \$ _____ (claims fee)
- Petition under 37 CFR 1.136 and Check for \$ _____
- Notice of Appeal and Check for \$ _____
- Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 and 8 documents
- Claim for priority and certified copies of _____ priority applications
- Issue fee transmittal and Check for \$ _____
- Other (specify) _____

by placing your receiving date stamp hereon and returning to deliverer.

FCHS-D-001

Atty. SAWYER

Due Date / /
Mo. Day Yr.



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